Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A conferencing method comprising:

receiving first <u>endpoint</u> ~~conference endpoint~~ data for a first conference type from a first endpoint;

<u>determining whether at least one second endpoint is participating in a conference with the first endpoint;</u>

<u>determining a second conference type for transmitting the received first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint, the determining the second conference type comprising</u> reading a <u>second</u> conference type identifier from a memory, the <u>second</u> conference type identifier specifying <u>the</u> ~~a~~ second conference type for <u>the at least one</u> ~~a~~ second endpoint participating in <u>the</u> ~~a~~ conference with the first endpoint;

determining whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type;

selecting a conversion program based on whether the second conference type is different than the first conference <u>type, the conversion program converting the received first endpoint data to second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type;</u>

reading ~~an~~ a first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint;

transmitting the converted first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint, the transmitted data comprising the first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint;

receiving second endpoint data from the at least one second endpoint;

the conversion program converting the received second endpoint data to first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type;

reading a second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint; and

transmitting the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint, the transmitted second endpoint data comprising the second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program converting the received second endpoint data to the first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type comprises the conversion program utilizing a conversion parameter if the first conference type is a voice conference and the second conference type is a text messaging conference; and

wherein the conversion parameter comprises predetermined voice attributes based on the second endpoint identifier of the at least one second endpoint that are independent of a voice of a user of the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program converting the received first endpoint data to the second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type comprises the conversion program utilizing aiding data if the second conference type is a text messaging conference and the first conference type is a voice conference; and

wherein the aiding data comprises a model of stored voice data for a user of the first endpoint.

~~selecting a conversion parameter for the conversion program based on the endpoint identifier;~~

~~initiating execution of the conversion program specifying the conversion parameter on the first conference endpoint data to prepare converted first conference endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference endpoint data, wherein the conversion program is configured to utilize aiding data to enhance the conversion of the first conference endpoint data;~~

~~transmitting the first conference endpoint data to the second endpoint; and~~

~~transmitting the converted first conference endpoint data to the first endpoint and the second endpoint.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 1 wherein the at least one second endpoint comprises a plurality of second endpoints and wherein transmitting the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint comprises mixing the converted second endpoint data from each of the plurality of second endpoints into a single transmission and transmitting the single transmission to the first endpoint.</u> ~~claim 1, where the first conference type is a text messaging conference, and where the second conference type is a voice conference.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 1 wherein the conversion program converting the received second endpoint data to the first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type comprises the conversion program executing a text to speech translator.</u> ~~claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a text to speech translator.~~

4

4. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 1 wherein the conversion program</u> <u>converting the received first endpoint data to the second endpoint data that is compatible</u> <u>with the second conference type comprises the conversion program executing a speech to</u> <u>text translator.</u> ~~claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program~~ ~~comprises initiating execution of a speech-to-text translator.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 1 wherein the conversion parameter further</u> <u>comprises a voice, wherein the voice is based on a selected gender, selected dialect, or</u> <u>selected language.</u> ~~claim 1, where the act of transmitting comprises transmitting the~~ ~~converted first conference-endpoint data and a first endpoint identifier to the second~~ ~~endpoint.~~

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 1 wherein the aiding data further comprises</u> <u>training data captured during a training exercise of the speech to text translator.</u> ~~claim 1,~~ ~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving second conference-endpoint data for the second conference type from~~ ~~the second endpoint;~~

~~preparing converted second conference-endpoint data compatible with the first~~ ~~conference type from the second conference-endpoint data; and~~

~~transmitting the second converted conference-endpoint data to the first endpoint.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 1 wherein the transmitting the converted first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint and the transmitting the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint comprise transmitting using at least one of Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), SIP for Instant Messaging and Presence Leveraging Extensions (SIMPLE), or Jabber protocol.</u> ~~claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator, and further comprising the act of selecting a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 3 wherein the text to speech translator comprises a dictionary of common words, phrases, and names.</u> ~~claim 1, where at least one of the first conference type and second conference type is at least one of a decentralized text messaging conference and a centralized text messaging conference.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of <u>claim 7 wherein the aiding data further comprises a dictionary of common words, phrases, and names.</u> ~~claim 1,~~

~~where reading an endpoint identifier comprises: reading a name indicia that identifies the source of the first conference endpoint data; and~~

~~where: the conversion parameter comprises a voice model conversion parameter that distinguishes between male and female voice production.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A conferencing system comprising:

a non-transitory computer readable memory device comprising:

first endpoint ~~conference endpoint~~ data for a first conference type received

from a first endpoint;

second endpoint data for a second conference type received from at least

one second endpoint;

a first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint;

a second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint;

a second conference type identifier specifying the ~~a~~ second conference

type for the at least one ~~a second~~ endpoint; and ~~endpoint participating in a conference~~

~~with the first endpoint; and~~

a conversion program; ~~program operable to prepare converted first~~

~~endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference~~

~~endpoint data, wherein the conversion program is configured to utilize aiding data to~~

~~enhance the conversion of the first conference endpoint data, and~~

a processor; and ~~processor operable to determine whether the second conference~~

~~type is different that the first conference type and to execute the conversion program~~

~~when the second conference type is different from the first conference type, and~~

~~where the processor initiates transmission of the converted first endpoint data to~~

~~the first endpoint and second endpoint and transmission of the first conference endpoint~~

~~data to the second endpoint.~~

wherein the processor determines whether the at least one second endpoint is

participating in a conference with the first endpoint; and

wherein the processor determines the second conference type for transmitting the received first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the processor determines the second conference type by reading the second conference type identifier from the memory; and

wherein the processor determines whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type; and

wherein the processor selects the conversion program based on whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type; and

wherein the conversion program converts the received first endpoint data to second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type; and

wherein the processor reads the first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint; and

wherein the processor transmits the converted first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint, the transmitted data comprising the first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program converts the received second endpoint data to first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type; and

wherein the processor reads the second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the processor transmits the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint, the transmitted first endpoint data comprising the second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program utilizes a conversion parameter if the first conference type is a voice conference and the second conference type is a text messaging

8

conference, wherein the conversion parameter comprises predetermined voice attributes based on the second endpoint identifier of the at least one second endpoint that are independent of a voice of a user of the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program utilizes aiding data if the second conference type is a text messaging conference and the first conference type is a voice conference, wherein the aiding data comprises a model of stored voice data for a user of the first endpoint.

12. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of claim 11 wherein the at least one second endpoint comprises a plurality of second endpoints and wherein the processor mixes the converted second endpoint data from each of the plurality of second endpoints into a single transmission and transmits the single transmission to the first endpoint. ~~claim 11, where the first conference type is a text messaging conference, and where the second conference type is a voice conference.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of claim 11 wherein the conversion program executes a text to speech translator to convert the received second endpoint data to the first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type. ~~claim 11, where the conversion program comprises at least on of a text to speech translator and a speech to text translator.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 11 wherein the conversion</u> <u>program executes a speech to text translator to convert the received first endpoint data to</u> <u>the second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type.</u> ~~claim 11, where the conversion program comprises a text to speech translator, and where~~ ~~the memory further comprises a speech to next translator.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 11 wherein the conversion</u> <u>parameter further comprises a voice, wherein the voice is based on a selected gender,</u> <u>selected dialect, or selected language.</u> ~~claim 14, where:~~

~~the memory further comprises second conference endpoint data for the second~~ ~~conference type received from the second endpoint; and~~

~~where the processor executes the text to speech translator on the first conference~~ ~~endpoint data to prepare the converted first conference endpoint data, and executes the~~ ~~speech to text translator on the second conference endpoint data to prepare converted~~ ~~second conference endpoint data.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 11 wherein the at least one</u> <u>second endpoint comprises a plurality of second endpoints and wherein the processor</u> <u>filters the received second endpoint data from each of the plurality of second endpoints to</u> <u>eliminate the received second endpoint data from at least one of the plurality of second</u> <u>endpoints.</u> ~~claim 15, where the processor~~ initiates transmission of the converted second ~~endpoint data to the first endpoint.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 11 wherein the aiding data</u> <u>further comprises training data captured during a training exercise of the speech to text</u> <u>translator.</u> ~~claim 11, where the processor initiates transmission of the converted first~~ ~~endpoint data and a first endpoint identifier to the second endpoint.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 11 wherein the processor</u> <u>transmits the converted first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint using at</u> <u>least one of Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), SIP for Instant Messaging and Presence</u> <u>Leveraging Extensions (SIMPLE), or Jabber protocol and wherein the processor</u> <u>transmits the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint using at least one of</u> <u>Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), SIP for Instant Messaging and Presence Leveraging</u> <u>Extensions (SIMPLE), or Jabber protocol.</u> ~~claim 11, where the first conference type is at~~ ~~least one of a centralized and decentralized instant messaging conference, and where the~~ ~~processor is operable to initiate transmission of the converted first endpoint data~~ ~~according to a pre-selected instant messaging protocol.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 13 wherein the text to speech</u> <u>translator comprises a dictionary of common words, phrases, and names.</u> ~~claim 11, where the conversion program is a text-to-speech translator, and where the~~ ~~memory further comprises voice data for a voice for at least one of the first and second~~ ~~endpoints.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system of <u>claim 17 wherein the aiding data</u> <u>further comprises a dictionary of common words, phrases, and names.</u> ~~claim 11,~~

~~where the processor is further operable to filter, according to a filter criteria, the~~ ~~first conference endpoint data, the second conference endpoint data, or both to eliminate~~ ~~endpoint data that would otherwise be communicated to the first endpoint, the second~~ ~~endpoint, or both; and~~

~~where the filter criteria comprises an n-loudest filter criteria for processing only~~ ~~endpoint data only from n-loudest endpoints connected to a conference, including the~~ ~~first and second endpoints.~~

21.-33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) A conferencing method comprising:

receiving coded first endpoint data for a first conference type from a first endpoint;

determining a second conference type for transmitting the received coded first endpoint data to at least one second endpoint that is participating in a conference with the first endpoint, the determining the second conference type comprising reading a second conference type identifier from a memory, the second conference type identifier specifying the second conference type for the at least one second endpoint;

determining whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type;

decoding the received coded first endpoint data by applying a CODEC that is selected based on the at least one endpoint, the CODEC being selected when the at least one second endpoint joins the conference with the first endpoint;

selecting a conversion program based on whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type, the conversion program converting the decoded first endpoint data to second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type;

reading a first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint;

transmitting the converted first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint, the transmitted data comprising the first endpoint identifier for the first endpoint;

receiving second endpoint data from the at least one second endpoint;

the conversion program converting the received second endpoint data to first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type;

reading a second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint; and

transmitting the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint, the transmitted second endpoint data comprising the second endpoint identifier for the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program converting the received second endpoint data to the first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type comprises the conversion program utilizing a conversion parameter if the first conference type is a voice conference and the second conference type is a text messaging conference; and

wherein the conversion parameter comprises predetermined voice attributes based on the second endpoint identifier of the at least one second endpoint that are independent of a voice of a user of the at least one second endpoint; and

wherein the conversion program converting the received first endpoint data to the second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type comprises the conversion program utilizing aiding data if the second conference type is a text messaging conference and the first conference type is a voice conference; and

wherein the aiding data comprises a model of stored voice data for a user of the first endpoint.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the at least one second endpoint comprises a plurality of second endpoints and wherein transmitting the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint comprises mixing the converted second endpoint data from each of the plurality of second endpoints into a single transmission and transmitting the single transmission to the first endpoint.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the conversion program converting the received second endpoint data to the first endpoint data that is compatible with the first conference type comprises the conversion program executing a text to speech translator.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the conversion program converting the received first endpoint data to the second endpoint data that is compatible with the second conference type comprises the conversion program executing a speech to text translator.

38. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the conversion parameter further comprises a voice, wherein the voice is based on a selected gender, selected dialect, or selected language.

39. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the aiding data further comprises training data captured during a training exercise of the speech to text translator.

40. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the transmitting the converted first endpoint data to the at least one second endpoint and the transmitting the converted second endpoint data to the first endpoint comprise transmitting using at least one of Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), SIP for Instant Messaging and Presence Leveraging Extensions (SIMPLE), or Jabber protocol.

41. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the text to speech translator comprises a dictionary of common words, phrases, and names.

42. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the aiding data further comprises a dictionary of common words, phrases, and names.